



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



### SDNG SOLDIERS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN

Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company arrived in the United States Saturday, Sept. 27, after serving a nearly nine-month deployment in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Members of the Sioux Falls and Flandreau-based 1742nd arrived at Fort Hood, Texas, where they will spend one to two weeks completing demobilization requirements before returning to South Dakota.

The 1742nd deployed approximately 160 soldiers in December to provide medium transportation support and convoy security. They also provided retrograde support and augmented various supply and service functions.

Details of the unit's arrival to South Dakota or welcome home ceremony are not known at this time and will be made available to the public as soon as they are confirmed.

This is the third mobilization for the 1742nd, which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004 and in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.

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Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South Dakota  
veterans.



## HEROES AMONG US

Robert Wagner, Butte County Veterans Service Officer, recently had the distinct honor to introduce Al Shaw as he was recognized by the National Society of the Daughters of American Revolution for his excellent community service.

Al began his commitment of excellent service by serving in World War II as a ball turret gunner on a B-17. He flew a "LUCKY 31 combat missions".

Many would say that Al is part of the WWII generation who didn't lose their sense of commitment to the community after they returned home from war.

Al has served on the city council, the chamber of commerce, the country club board of directors, the chamber of commerce ambassadors, the Lions Club, the Belle Fourche volunteer fire department. When he's not busy serving on a council or a board, Al can be found delivering "meals on wheels," or working on community projects such as park shelters.

Al also has served in many color guards in parades, programs at the local cemetery, and services at The National Cemetery.

Al has been driving the Disabled American Veterans van since 2009. He has transported 350-400 veterans a year to VABHHCS and have driven over 1,750 hours in five years.

Thanks Al, for your service to this great country and your continued commitment and dedication to South Dakota's veterans.



## PROJECT CONNECT

Those in need could find what they need at a one-stop-shop at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Project Connect in Pierre this week.

The event included information on programs such as employment assistance, energy assistance, veterans benefits and housing referrals. There are also services like free family photos, free hair cuts, clothing and toiletries.

River Cities Transit provided free transportation to and from Project Connect. The first year, the event attracted 60 people; last year more than 400 people attended.

SDDVA Field Officers Kevin Bowen and Kevin Swanson and Hughes County VSO Charles Quinn and Assistant Sheila Carpenter were on hand to visit with veterans about benefits and services.



## BHSU REOPENS VETERANS CENTER

Last week Black Hills State University Student Veterans Center celebrated its grand re-opening with a public ceremony in the Student Union. SDDVA Field Officer William Huffman attended the celebration and used this opportunity to promote what services the Department and the County and Tribal Veterans Services Officers can provide.

The student veteran facility was remodeled utilizing a \$75,000 Veteran Services Higher Education Grant. The Veterans Center provides space for student veterans to study, hold meetings, or socialize and is equipped for laptop hookup and advanced communication capabilities.

## VICTORIOUS WARRIORS

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation has prints of John Green's "Victorious Warriors" painting for sale. The painting was auctioned at the 2014 State American Legion convention. The prints are \$75, with \$10 per print donated back to the foundation.

Prints will be available at Districts 6, 7, and 8 fall meetings, Mid-Winter Conference, and 2015 state convention. A maximum of 300 prints will be produced, signed and numbered by Mr. Green.

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt public organization created to attract and distribute charitable funds for the benefit of the South Dakota American Legion programs. The funds are deposited into a permanent endowment fund.



## SFVAHC HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING



Last Friday, SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard participated in the VA groundbreaking for their new \$7.9 million surgical suite.

The new surgical suites will have more than 17,000 square feet of space. The Veterans Hospital in Sioux Falls was built in 1949 and has seen major renovations over the years. But this new surgical suite will ensure today's veterans will be able to schedule operations in a much more timely manner.

This project will be completed in June of 2016.

## PIERRE ELKS LODGE 1953 DEVELOPS NEW PROGRAM TO ASSIST VETERANS IN NEED

In their on-going commitment to South Dakota's veterans, Pierre Elks Lodge 1953, has developed, partnered and funded yet another project to benefit our veterans.

A task force led by Jerry Wattier and our very own Sheila Carpenter (administrative assistant for the Hughes County VSO) were successful in networking with many Pierre/Ft. Pierre businesses to assist veterans in need. Carpenter, Wattier and their team secured free lodging and meal certificates, gas cards, phone cards, clothing, food, and educational materials to assist veterans. The items have been packaged together in a "We Care" bag and are available for the Hughes County Veterans Service Office to use to assist veterans.

"Pierre Elks Lodge 1953 is fortunate to have such great partners within our network and we appreciate their support in our endeavors to assist veterans," said Jerry Wattier, chairman of the Pierre Elks Lodge 1953 Veterans Committee. "We are proud of our legacy in improving the lives of South Dakota veterans."

Next month, Pierre Elks Lodge will begin with their annual holiday project to secure holiday gifts and goodies for the veterans at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and the VABHCS.

Our special thanks to Pierre Elks Lodge 1953 and their community partners.





## RAPID CITY STAND DOWN



# VETERANS STAND DOWN 2014



**WHO:** All Veterans and their Families

**WHERE:** Rushmore Civic Center Hall "D"  
(444 N Mount Rushmore Rd. Rapid City, SD)

**WHEN:** Nov. 12, 2014 @ 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Food
- Clothing
- Community housing referral
- Medical treatment
- Readjustment counseling
- Dental screenings
- Employment services
- Spiritual services
- VA benefits
- Legal assistance
- Free haircuts
- Much more!

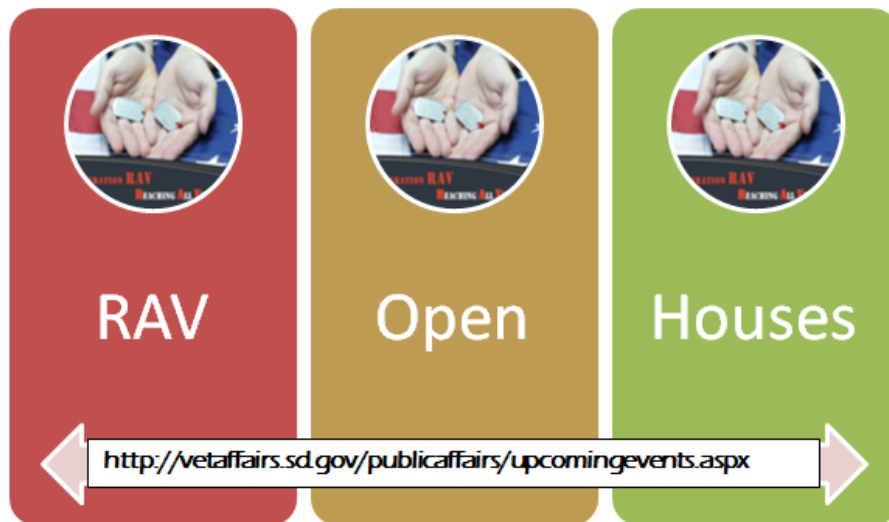


- ❖ Please bring a copy of your **DD214**, **medical records**, **dependent information** and **identification** to the event so that we may properly serve you and meet your needs.
- ❖ For further questions please do not hesitate to contact Jamison Hild at: **605-490-8587** or Heidi Hill at: **605-490-3592**

# Upcoming Events

## 2014

Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
Oct. 7—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm  
Oct. 8—South Dakota Veterans Commission—MJF State Veterans Home—Hot Springs  
Oct. 17— Women Veterans Conference—Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls  
Nov. 4—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm  
Nov. 12—Veterans Stand Down—Hall D—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—2:00-6:00 pm  
Nov. 14-16 Yellow Ribbon Post Deployment Event for the 1742nd Transportation Co.—Sioux Falls  
Dec. 2—SDSU Veterans Combat Support Group—SDSU Student Union 065—6:00 pm  
Dec. 9—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City—10:00 am  
Dec.. 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre Post 8 American Legion (520 S. Pierre Street)—10:00 am  
Dec. 11—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings City/County Building (520 3rd St—Suite 300) - 10:00 am



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